

EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN

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DUNCAN MARSHALL,
Manager.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1907.

NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITIES.

It is not the Bulletin's business to tender advice to its opponents, but it may be pointed out that intentionally or otherwise the western advocates of high protection are missing the chance of a life-time to urge the application of their economic currents to the industrial needs of Western Canada. The first and primary argument for high tariff is that it encourages the establishment of industries, and thus creates a "home market" in the "protected" country. If these gentlemen have faith in the practical effectiveness of their remedy why do they not urge its application for developing industries and creating a home market in Western Canada? Surely no better opportunity to test its merits could be desired. We have here an enormous country endowed with ample resources for manufacturing concerns and capable of producing all the possible requirements of a "home market." Yet we import our manufactures from eastern Canada. Surely this must be a crime to the protectionists. If it is foolishly for western people to buy goods from American makers, why not also from the manufacturers in Eastern Canada? There are no doubt many surely short-sighted protectionists if they do not discern a rare opportunity for bestowing on Western Canada the alleged blessings of a prohibitive tariff. If there be efficacy in such a restriction surely we should plant a row of cotton houses every mile along the eastern boundary of Manitoba and collect duty on every binder, wagon or plow and on every ear of dry goods or groceries that the eastern manufacturer tries to send into this territory. Then, according to the protectionist logic "the wilderness and solitary place" should be "gladly and desert rejoice and blossom as the rose"; the westerner's life would be a pleasant sojourn in a landscape of smoking chimneys and cabbage gardens.

As for that matter, why go half way in a good cause? If national protection would be beneficial why not more decisions? If international tariff walls shelter and encourage national industries why should not international hedges spread the same kindly influence over the industries of provinces? If protection is all, or any material part, of what it is claimed to be why should not Alberta erect tariff walls against coal, lumber and fruit from British Columbia, against horses from Saskatchewan, wheat from Manitoba and manufactures from all countries? But why stop here? If international tariffs, why not inter-municipal tariffs? Surely it is an outrage to protectionist logic that Calgary should be bought in Edmonton or Edmonton bought in Calgary. This is contrary to the entire theory of protecting everything at home; an open and flagrant disregard of home industries and home markets. And if inter-municipal tariffs why not individual tariffs? Why should not the farmer, for example, establish a custom house on his farm, swear his wife in as collector and get rich by taxing himself 50 per cent. of whatever on every article he brings home from town? If the protection theory corrects this would encourage his daughters to make home-spun cloth and home-made soap, his sons to raise sheep and sugar beets for their own use only, of course, if every other farmer did the same. The city man, too, why should he not hold up the delivery boy at the gate and demand duty before he dumps a load of groceries in the kitchen? If "the dealer pays the duty" as we are occasionally told, the scheme should work splendidly. By raising the tariff above the purchase price the customer could even make money on his purchase and the more he bought the more money he would have. Surely this ought to be popular enough to arouse the interest of the high-tariff politicians.

True there are difficulties in the way of these suggested applications of protectionism, but surely these do not dampen the souls of the high protectionists. Blessings such as they attribute to their doctrine should simply counter-balance those in the minds of the advocates. First it would be necessary to re-adjust the whole financial system of the Dominion and secure the reversion of the customs to the provinces. This of course would leave the Dominion without funds and the provinces without subsidies. It is not likely that the Dominion would be able to support the financial apparatus of the Opposition when a Liberal Government was 'on board.' This would only be the beginning of the trouble, but surely the trifling difficulties connected with carrying a theory into conformity with a nation does not dampen the enthusiasm of these timid economists. Can it be that they are deterred by any thought of what the eastern manufacturer would think of the project? Polish the suggestion? He is the man they should be after with a club if they have faith in their own theory for building up home industries.

ONE OF THE PIONEERS.

The removal of Bishop Reeves to Toronto is the withdrawal of another of the frontier heroes of the church from the scenes of his activity. Bishop Reeves ranks with Father LaPlante and Rev. George McDougall as one of the early torch-bearers. For thirty-eight years he has lived among the people of the northland, giving to the cause he represented the enthusiasm of his young manhood and the experience of his ripe years. The North is better because Bishop Reeves has lived there.

WORKING FOR PEACE.

Andrew Carnegie is laying the foundations for a Temple of Peace at The Hague and France is laying the foundations for a condition of peace in Morocco. Anonymous as it may seem the masses and the marines are both working to the one end. While Morocco continues peace temples are erected certain to be closed at the peace of the more peaceable the power nations appear the less peaceable will these trouble-breeds become. The rational course would be to terminate the Moroccan problem by the peace of the more peaceable the power nations appear the less peaceable will these trouble-breeds become. The rational course would be to terminate the Moroccan problem by the peace of the more peaceable the power nations appear the less peaceable will these trouble-breeds become. The rational course would be to terminate the Moroccan problem by the peace of the more peaceable the power nations appear the less peaceable will these trouble-breeds become.

A WORLDLY PILGRIMAGE.

Mail and Empire. "Pity is the sentiment evoked by the movements of the wandering Dooklovers. Inspired by a religious motive, which others cannot appreciate, these poor people are restless and unable to settle down peacefully and happily. Sometimes impulse, or religious excitement, induces them to abandon their homes, and to enter upon the long march in search of the Saviour of mankind. On such occasions their plight is desperate. Hungry, weary and ill, they plod on, men and women, boys and girls, in the earnest prosecution of their remarkable mission."

This pathos would be very commendable but that it is badly out of joint with the facts. The present pilgrimage is no religious but industrial or anti-industrial. The Dooklovers are looking not for the Messiah but for a warmer climate. The saving they seek at present is not from sin but from the cruel necessity of working for a living. The two or three dozen now on the march are animated not by any religious enthusiasm but by an enthusiastic disinclination to labor. They seek not a spiritual leader but a tropical country where nature produces food for man independent of his exertions. Their object is not to become saints but lotus-eaters.

G. T. P. CONSTRUCTION.

Strange stories occasionally come out of the coast cities and people are led to discount despatches originating there in the mid-summer season. It is to be hoped no discount is necessary on the Vancouver despatch announcing that G. T. P. construction would build the coast and at Edmonton this fall. From this point however there is no very strong corroborative evidence. The G. T. P. are putting all their energies in the Winnipeg-Edmonton line and though making remarkable progress the scarcity of labor is a serious handicap and the line will not probably reach here until next summer. Until the Winnipeg-Edmonton line is practically completed it is doubtful if work will begin from Edmonton westward. The bulk of our trade goes east, not west. The line eastward is therefore of most pressing necessity and it is imperative to complete it. Once it is completed two construction materials can be brought in over the company's own line which otherwise would have to be shipped over competing roads. It is not likely therefore that the line westward will be begun until the line eastward is completed.

Suppose the public utilities of this city were owned by private corporations and the present employees of the city were the employees of these corporations. Would the city commissioners promulgate an edict that they must not participate in municipal politics, beyond casting their votes? Not unless they could convince the would-be employees of these corporations be more loyal to the city's interests than the employees of the city? Are the wishes of such corporations more likely to agree with the interests of the city than the policy of the city administration? Yet while the corporation employees would be left free to wage war against the interests of the city for the benefit of their employers, the city employees are to be penalized if they venture an opinion on behalf of their employer—the city. Clearly the civic policy must be regarded by the city commissioners as more hostile to the city's interests than the predatory designs of corporations.

The reply will be that the city commissioners have no power to restrict the liberties of corporation employees. Just so. And neither have they power, legal or otherwise, to restrict the political liberties of any other class of citizens. True, if the city commissioners were governed by the same indifference alike to their own responsibility and to the rights of the citizens the commissioners might leave the city charter to suit themselves and might even supply what may there be lacking to enable them to establish a bureaucracy. But it would be short-lived, for the municipal elections come on shortly and the electors would make short work of any such nonsense. But if the city council is seized with any proper conception of its own dignity and of the rights of citizenship it will tolerate no such usurpation of authority and no such infringement on the rights of those taxpayers who may happen to be working for the city.

THE CALL OF THE WILD-EYED.

No, Clarinda, You're mistaken. That insistent Voice you hear Bounding lightly O'er the prairie Like a loquacious Strong and clear Does not come from Some grand dictator Out with medicine To sell, Nor is it A real estate man Cautious of the land A spell. It is not An able barber Barking for A three-cent shave, Nor is it from One with habits And with bulks For you to throw. It is from The Western farmer, Bone and sinew Of the land, Who has yielded In his whinnies And a two-pint In his hand, One of this United nation's Strongest and most Substantial props. Calling us In tones pathetic To come on And save his crops. —Nashville American.

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